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(54) [Title of the Invention] ILLUMINATION APPARATUS AND
PROJECTION EXPOSURE APPARATUS USING THE SAME

(57) [Abstract]

[Object]

To provide an illumination apparatus and a projection exposure apparatus using the same preferable for fabricating a semiconductor element capable of carrying out projection exposure having a high resolution by selecting an optimum illumination system by a direction, a line width or the like of a shape of a pattern.

[Constitution]

When a light fluxlight beam from a light source is split into a plurality of incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof by optical means, the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams are made to form a plurality of secondary light sources by way of an optical integrator, light fluxlight esbeams from the plurality of secondary light sources are condensed by a condenser lens to illuminate a pattern on an illuminated face, and the pattern is projected to be exposed on a substrate face by a projection optical system, the optical means includes an adjusting member for independently adjusting relative light amounts of respectives of the plurality of light

fluxlight esbeams.

[Claims]

[Claim 1]

An illumination apparatus characterized in that when a light fluxlight beam from a light source is split into a plurality of incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof by optical means, the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams are made to form a plurality of secondary light source by way of an optical integrator, and light fluxlight esbeams from the plurality of secondary light sources are condensed by a condenser lens to illuminate an illuminated face, the optical means includes an adjusting member for independently adjusting relative light amounts of respective of the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams.

[Claim 2]

A projection exposure apparatus characterized in that when a light fluxlight beam from a light source is split into a plurality of incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof by optical means, the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams are made to form a plurality of secondary light sources by way of an optical integrator, light fluxlight esbeams from the plurality of secondary light sources are condensed by a condenser lens to illuminate a pattern on an illuminated face, and the pattern is projected to be exposed onto a substrate face by a projection optical system, the optical means includes an adjusting member for independently adjusting relative light

amounts of respectively of the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams.

[Claim 3]

The projection exposure apparatus according to Claim 2, characterized in that the optical means includes a first polarized beam splitter for splitting an incidence light fluxlight beam into two light fluxlight esbeams having predetermined polarization characteristics, and a second, a third polarized beam splitter for splitting two light fluxlight esbeams from the first polarized beam splitter further into two light fluxlight esbeams.

[Claim 4]

The projection exposure apparatus according to Claim 3, characterized in that the adjusting member is constituted by a pivotable phase element arranged on front sides of the first, the second, the third polarized beam splitters.

[Claim 5]

The projection exposure apparatus according to Claim 3, characterized in that the adjusting member includes a fixed or an attachable/detachable light reducing member by which a light reduction amount is constant or variable in an optical path of one of the light fluxlight beam in the two light fluxlight esbeams split by the first polarized beam splitter.

[Claim 6]

The projection exposure apparatus according to Claim 5,

characterized in that the light reducing member is constituted by an ND filter or a half mirror.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Field of Application]

The present invention relates to an illumination apparatus and a projection exposure apparatus using the same, specifically relates to an illumination apparatus and a projection exposure apparatus using the same capable of easily achieving a high resolution by pertinently illuminating a pattern on a face of a reticle in a so-to-speak stepper constituting an apparatus of fabricating a semiconductor element.

[0002]

[Background Art]

Progress of a technology of fabricating a semiconductor element in recent times is remarkable, and also progress of a micromachining technology in accordance therewith is remarkable. Particularly, an optical machining technology reaches a technology of micromachining having a resolving power of a submicrometer by constituting a boundary by fabrication of a semiconductor element of 1MDRAM. As means for promoting a resolving power, until now, in a number of cases, there is used a method of fixing an exposure wavelength and increasing NA (numerical aperture) of an optical system. However, in

recent times, there have variously been carried out trials of promoting a resolving power by an exposure method using an ultra high pressure mercury lamp by changing an exposure wavelength from g radiationg-line to i radiationi-line.

[0003]

With the progress of a method of using g radiationg-line or i radiationi-line as the exposure wavelength, also a resist process have similarly been developed. Photolithography has rapidly been progressed by combining both of the optical system and the process.

[0004]

It is generally known that a focal depthdepth of focus of a stepper is inversely proportional to a square of NA. Therefore, in order to achieve a resolving power of a submicrometer, there poses a problem that the focal depthdepth of focus is shallowed along therewith.

[0005]

In contrast thereto, there have been variously proposed methods of achieving promotion of a resolving power by using light having a shorter wavelength represented by an excimer laser. It is known that an effect of using light having a short wavelength is generally provided with an effect of being inversely proportional to a wavelength, and a focal depthdepth of focus is deepened by an amount of shortening a wavelength.

[0006]

Other than using light formed into a short wavelength, there have been variously proposed methods of using a phase shift mask (phase shift method) as a method of promoting a resolving power. According to the method, there is formed a thin film providing a phase difference of 180 degrees to light transmitting through other portion at a portion of a mask of a background art to promote a resolving power and the method is proposed by Levenson et al of IBM corporation (United States). When a wavelength is designated by notation λ , a parameter is designated by notation k_1 , and a numerical aperture is designated by NA, a resolving power RP is generally shown by an equation of $RP = k_1 \lambda / NA$. It is known that the parameter k_1 normally having a practical region 0.7 through 0.8 can considerably be improved to about 0.35 in the phase shift method.

[0007]

There are known various phase shift methods, and the methods are described in details in, for example, a paper of Hukuda or the like et al., of Nikkei Microdevice, 1990, July, page 108 and thereafter.

[0008]

However, in order to promote a resolving power by actually using a phase shift mask of a spatial frequency modulating type, a number of problems still remain. For example, there are problems in a current state as follows.

(a) A technology of forming a phase shift film is not established.

(b) Development of CAD optimum for a phase shift film is not established.

(c) A pattern which cannot be attached with a phase shift film is present.

(d) In relation to (c), a negative type resist is obliged to be used.

(e) Inspection, modification technology is not established.
[0009]

Therefore, there are various hazards in actually fabricating a semiconductor element by utilizing a phase shift mask and at present, the fabrication is considerably difficult.
[0010]

In contrast thereto, the applicant has proposed an exposure method further promoting a resolving power and an exposure apparatus using the same in Japanese Patent Application Publication 3-28631 (filed on February 22, 1991).
[0011]

According thereto, projection having a high resolution is carried out by splitting illuminating light (effective light source) into four portions to constitute illuminating light in a shape of a quadruple.
[0012]

Fig.9 is an outline view of an essential portion of a

projection exposure apparatus for a high resolving power previously proposed by the applicant.

[0013]

In the drawing, a light fluxlight beam emitted from an excimer laser 101 is subjected to beam shaping by a beam shaping optical system (not illustrated) and thereafter, split into a plurality of light fluxlight esbeams incoherent to each other in amplitudes thereof by a light splitting means 109a to emit to be incident on an optical integrator 110.

[0014]

A light intensity distribution at an incidence face 110a of the optical integrator 110 is as shown by, for example, Fig.10. At this occasion, also an emission face 110b is provided with a light intensity distribution in correspondence therewith.

[0015]

Further, Fig.10 shows a case of splitting the incidence light fluxlight beam into four light fluxlight esbeams by the light splitting means 109a.

[0016]

The light fluxlight beam from the optical integrator 110 is condensed by a condenser lens 111 to illuminate a reticle 112 constituting an illuminated face. Further, a pattern on a face of the reticle 112 is projected onto a face of a wafer 114 by a projection optical system 113.

[0017]

In the drawing, the light intensity distribution at the emission face 110b of the optical integrator 110 is constituted by a shape as shown by Fig.10, and the emission face 110b is imaged onto a pupil of the projection optical system 113 by the condenser lens 111. Thereby, the pattern projection having a high resolution is carried out with regard to a specific pattern of the reticle 112.

[0018]

[Problems that the Invention is to Solve]

Generally, an image quality (resolution) of a pattern transcribed onto a wafer face is significantly influenced by a property of an illumination apparatus, for example, an angular distribution (light distribution characteristic light directional distribution characteristic) of illuminating light on an illuminated face.

[0019]

According to a projection exposure apparatus for fabricating a semiconductor element, owing to a dispersion in an integration accuracy or an aging variation of respective elements, it is very difficult to uniformly maintain a light distribution characteristic light directional distribution characteristic on a reticle face constituting an illuminated face. Therefore, there is a case in which a resolving power of a pattern image is reduced by asymmetry of the light

distribution characteristic light directional distribution characteristic on the illuminated face.

[0020]

It is an object of the invention to provide an illumination apparatus capable of arbitrarily adjusting an illuminance distribution based on a plurality of light fluxlight esbeams on an incidence face of an optical integrator constituting a portion of an illumination apparatus in a projection exposure apparatus previously applied by the applicant, thereby, arbitrarily adjusting a light distribution characteristic light directional distribution characteristic on an illuminated face, capable of easily providing a pattern image having a high resolution and preferable for fabricating a semiconductor element and a projection exposure apparatus using the same.

[0021]

[Means for Solving the Problems]

An illumination apparatus of the invention is characterized in that when a light fluxlight beam from a light source is split into a plurality of incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof by optical means, the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams are made to form a plurality of secondary light source by way of an optical integrator, and light fluxlight esbeams from the plurality of secondary light sources are condensed by a condenser lens to illuminate an

illuminated face, the optical means includes an adjusting member for independently adjusting relative light amounts of respectively of the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams.

[0022]

A projection exposure apparatus of the invention is characterized in that when a light fluxlight beam from a light source is split into a plurality of incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof by optical means, the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams are made to form a plurality of secondary light sources by way of an optical integrator, light fluxlight esbeams from the plurality of secondary light sources are condensed by a condenser lens to illuminate a pattern on an illuminated face, and the pattern is projected to be exposed onto a substrate face by a projection optical system, the optical means includes an adjusting member for independently adjusting relative light amounts of respectively of the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams.

[0023]

Further, the projection exposure apparatus of the invention is characterized in that (a) the optical means includes a first polarized beam splitter for splitting an incidence light fluxlight beam into two light fluxlight esbeams having predetermined polarization characteristics, and a second, a third polarized beam splitter for splitting two light fluxlight esbeams from the first polarized beam splitter

further into two light fluxlight esbeams, (b) the adjusting member is constituted by a pivotable phase element arranged on front sides of the first, the second, the third polarized beam splitters, (c) the adjusting member includes a fixed or an attachable/detachable light reducing member by which a light reduction amount is constant or variable in an optical path of one of the light fluxlight beam in the two light fluxlight esbeams split by the first polarized beam splitter, (d) the light reducing member is constituted by an ND filter or a half mirror, and the like.

[0024]

[Embodiment]

Fig.1 is an outline view of an essential portion of embodiment 1 of the invention.

[0025]

In the drawing, numeral 1 designates a light source, which is constituted by, for example, excimer laser or the like formed into a narrow band. A light fluxlight beam from excimer laser 1 is formed into a narrow band by a prism, a grating or combinations of these and an etalon or the like and is provided with a very storing polarization characteristic.

[0026]

Notation 1a designates a beam shaping optical system for subjecting the light fluxlight beam from the light source 1 to beam shaping to be emitted thereafter. Numeral 20

designates optical means, by which a light fluxlight beam from the beam shaping optical system 1a is split into a plurality of incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof, and emitted after independently adjusting respective relative intensities of the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams by an adjusting member, and is made to be incident on an incident face 10a of an optical integrator 10. The incidence face 10a is formed with a plurality of light amount distributions based on the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams as shown by, for example, Fig.10.

[0027]

The optical integrator 10 is constituted by two-dimensionally aligning a plurality of small lenses by a predetermined pitch. An emission face 10b of the optical integrator 10 is formed with a plurality of two-dimensional light sources.

[0028]

Numeral 11 designates a condenser lens for condensing a light fluxlight beam from the emission face 10b of the optical integrator 10 to be incident on a half mirror 21. A reticle 12 constituting an illuminated face is illuminated by portions of light fluxlight esbeams reflected by the half mirror 21.

[0029]

Further, each element from the light source 1 to the reticle 12 constitutes one element of an illumination

apparatus.

[0030]

Numeral 13 designates a projection optical system for subjecting a pattern on a face of the reticle 12 to reduction projection onto a face of the wafer 14. Numeral 22 designates a pin hole which is arranged at a position optically equivalent with the reticle 12 by way of the half mirror 21.

[0031]

Numeral 23 designates an optical detector for detecting a light fluxlight beam emitted through the half mirror 21 and passing through the pin hole 22 to thereby indirectly monitor an illuminance on the face of the reticle 12. The optical detector 23 is constituted by a two-dimensional CCD, a 4 split sensor or the like for measuring a total light amount passing through the pin hole 22 and monitoring intensity ratios of effective light source of a plurality of regions (for example, 4 regions) formed at the emission face 10b of the optical integrator 10 as described later. The intensity ratios of the plurality of regions on the emission face 10b of the optical integrator 10 are adjusted to be equal by adjusting means at inside of the optical means 20 described later.

[0032]

Further, the condenser lens 11 forms a plurality of secondary light sources formed at vicinities of the emission face 10b of the optical integrator 10 at a pupil 13a of the

projection optical system 13 as a secondary light source image by way of the half mirror 21.

[0033]

According to the embodiment, a circuit pattern having a high resolution is projected and exposed by adopting an illumination method (high resolution illumination) similar to that proposed by Japanese Patent Application 3-28613 mentioned above by variously changing a light intensity distribution of the secondary light source image formed at the pupil facepupil plane 13a of the projection optical system 13.

[0034]

Next, a constitution of the optical means 20 of the embodiment will be explained. Fig.2 is an outline view of an essential portion of embodiment 1 of the optical means 20 of the embodiment.

[0035]

According to the embodiment, there is shown a case in which the incidence light fluxlight beam from the beam shaping optical system 1a is split into 4 incoherent light fluxlight esbeams in amplitudes thereof to be emitted thereafter (further, a number of the split light fluxlight esbeams is not limited to 4 but may be any).

[0036]

Numerals 1 designates the light source for emitting the light fluxlight beam having a strong polarization

characteristic. In the drawing, notations 2, 5a, 5b, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d designate phase plates of $\lambda/2$ plates or the like respectively as the adjusting members, which are made to be able to be adjusted to rotate centering on an optical axis. Notations 3, 6a, 6b respectively designate first, second, third polarization beam splitters. Notations 4, 7a, 7b respectively designate mirrors.

[0037]

Fig.3 shows a polarization state and an amplitude of the light fluxlight beam at respective points (A through F_4) of Fig.2 in correspondence with respective positions (A through F_4) of Fig.2.

[0038]

The light fluxlight beam emitted from the light source 1 in a polarized state as indicated by A shown in Fig.3 (0° linearly polarized light) is converted into a light fluxlight beam in a polarized state as indicated by B of Fig.3 (45° linearly polarized light) by pertinently adjusting the $\lambda/2$ plate 2 as the adjusting member, and split into two light fluxlight esbeams of an equal intensity having polarized states orthogonal to each other as indicated by C_1 , C_2 of Fig.3 (0° linearly polarized light and 90° linearly polarized light) by passing the first polarization beam splitter 3.

[0039]

The light fluxlight esbeams C_1 , C_2 are converted into 45°

linearly polarized light again as indicated by light fluxlight esbeams D_1 , D_2 by the $\lambda/2$ plates 5a, 5b as the adjusting members adjusted pertinently. Further, the light fluxlight esbeams D_1 , D_2 are split into 4 light fluxlight esbeams of an equal intensity as indicated by light fluxlight esbeams E_1 , E_2 , E_3 , E_4 by passing the second, the third polarization beam splitters 6a, 6b.

[0040]

Further, as shown by Fig.4 (A), the four light fluxlight esbeams are directed to respective predetermined positions of the incidence face 10a of the optical integrator 10 and form 4 distributions G1 through G4 on the face 10a to form 4 secondary light source groups at vicinities of the emission face 10b.

[0041]

The $\lambda/2$ plates 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d of Fig.2 are for arbitrarily be changing polarizing directions of the respective light fluxlight esbeams incident on the incidence face 10a of the optical integrator 10 and 4 of the light fluxlight esbeams can be set as shown by Figs.4 (B), (C) by the adjustment.

[0042]

Fig.5 shows polarized states at respective positions when the $\lambda/2$ plate 2 as the adjusting member is rotated relative to the optical axis to be shifted from the above-described position in the optical means 20 of Fig.2. At this occasion, a polarized state at position B of Fig.2 is more or less shifted

from 45° linearly polarized light as indicated by light fluxlight beam B of Fig.5 to make a ratio of light amount passing through the first polarization beam splitter 3 equal. By such a principle, relative intensity ratios of respective light fluxlight esbeams incident on the incidence face 10a of the optical integrator 10 are adjusted.

[0043]

Although a laser of linearly polarized light is used as the light source 1 according to the embodiment, when, for example, a light source for irradiating a light fluxlight beam of circularly polarized light or elliptically polarized light is used, a similar effect can be achieved by constituting the phase plate 2 by a $\lambda/4$ plate or a combination of a $\lambda/4$ plate and a $\lambda/2$ plate. Further, when more or less nonpolarized component is included in the laser light, only a width of adjusting a light amount is more or less reduced and a hindrance is not brought about thereby.

[0044]

Although it is preferable that the respective polarization beam splitters 3, 6a, 6b are provided with small extinction ratios such that a transmittance is equal to or smaller than 1% in S polarized light, or a reflectance is equal to or smaller than 1% in P polarized light, actually, when a transmittance is equal to or smaller than about 40% in certain polarized light and a reflectance is equal to or smaller than

about 40% in polarized light orthogonal thereto, necessary light amount adjustment can be carried out.

[0045]

Fig.6 is an outline view of an essential portion of embodiment 2 of optical means according to the invention.

[0046]

The drawing is provided with ND filter plates 31, 32 switchable in optical paths of two light fluxlight esbeams split by the first polarization beam splitter 3 of Fig.2. The ND filter plates 31, 32 each is as shown by Fig.7, and is constituted by providing, for example, an ND filter 31a for transmitting 100% of a light fluxlight beam and a plurality of ND filters 31a through 31h having various transmittances on a substrate in a turret type.

[0047]

A cost ratio of light amounts of the two light fluxlight esbeams split by the first polarization beam splitter 3 is adjusted by inserting desired ND filters in respective optical paths such that the transmittance of the ND filter 31a is constituted by 100%, the transmittance of the ND filter 31b is constituted by 95%.

[0048]

In the case of the embodiment, the embodiment is effective even when the light fluxlight beam of the light source 1 is not polarized at all. Further, the light amount ratios

of 4 light fluxlight esbeams may directly be adjusted by arranging the ND filter plates in the optical paths of 4 light fluxlight esbeams split by the second, the third beam splitters 6a, 6b.

[0049]

Fig.8 is an outline of an essential portion of embodiment 3 of optical means according to the invention.

[0050]

The embodiment is a case in which the light source 1 emits light fluxlight beam which is not polarized at all, or is provided with an extremely small polarization degree.

[0051]

In the drawing, numeral 41 designates a first polarization beam splitter having a small extinction ratio, and the light fluxlight beam from the light source 1 is substantially completely split into two of orthogonal linearly polarized lights by passing the first polarization beam splitter 41. Notations 42a, 42b, 42c designate respectively fixed $\lambda/4$ plates which are set to convert linearly polarized light passing through the first polarization beam splitter into circularly polarized light. Notation 42d, 42e designate $\lambda/4$ plates as adjusting members which can be set variably for adjusting ratios of splitting light fluxlight esbeams by the second, the third beam splitters 6a, 6b (light fluxlight beam b_1 : light fluxlight beam b_2 and light fluxlight beam b_3 : light

fluxlight beam b_4).

[0052]

Numerals 43, 44 designate half mirror members each having a plurality of half mirrors capable of changing reflectances and is constructed by a constitution the same as that of the ND filter plate of Fig.9.

[0053]

Now assume that when the half mirror members 43 and 44 are not adjusted (when both of transmittances of half mirrors on the optical axis in the half mirror members 43, 44 are 100%), in a case in which a light amount of light fluxlight beam b_1 + light fluxlight beam b_2 is 100%, and a light amount of light fluxlight beam b_3 + light fluxlight beam b_4 is 80%, the both light amounts are intended to be equal. At this occasion, when the half mirror member 43 is switched to a half mirror having a transmittance of 90%, a reflectance of 10%, the both light amounts become equal.

[0054]

A principle in this case will be explained as follows. Assume that the polarization beam splitter 41 transmits P polarized light through a split face and reflects S polarized light by the split face. The light fluxlight beam from the light source 1 is split into 50% of transmitting light (P polarized light) and 10% of reflecting light (S polarized light) by passing through the polarization beam splitter 41.

90% of transmitting light (P polarized light) is converted into a circularly polarized light by passing through the $\lambda/4$ plate 42b.

[0055]

In the light, 10% of light fluxlight beam reflected by the half mirror 43 is converted into S polarized light by passing through the $\lambda/4$ plate 42b again. The light becomes P polarized light when the light is reflected by the polarization beam splitter 41, reflected by a mirror 44 by way of a $\lambda/4$ plate 42a, and is incident on the polarization beam splitter 41 again, and is directed in a direction of the mirror 4 (direction of b_3 , b_4) without being reflected.

[0056]

Further, 10% of light fluxlight beam is incident on the half mirror portion 44 by passing through the $\lambda/4$ plate 42c. Thereby, the light amount of light fluxlight esbeams ($b_1 + b_2$) becomes 90, the light amount of light fluxlight esbeams ($b_3 + b_4$) becomes 90, and both coincide with each other.

[0057]

According to the embodiment, the light amounts of the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams are adjusted without loss the light amounts by the above-described principle.

[0058]

[Advantage of the invention]

According to the invention, by setting the respective

elements as described above, in the projection exposure apparatus, the illuminance distribution based on the plurality of light fluxlight esbeams on the incidence face of the optical integrator constituting a portion of the illumination apparatus is made to be able to be adjusted arbitrarily, thereby achieving the illumination apparatus preferable for fabricating a semiconductor element capable of easily providing the pattern image having the high resolution by arbitrarily adjusting the illuminance distribution on the illuminated face and the projection exposure apparatus using the same.

[0059]

Further, according to the invention, by changing the polarized state of the light fluxlight beam from the light source, or using light reducing means, an intensity distribution of the effective light source can be controlled by controlling the light amount ratios of the split light fluxlight esbeams, a deterioration in an imaging function caused by asymmetry of the effective light source can be prevented, and the excellent imaging function can be achieved.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig.1]

Fig.1 is an outline view of an essential portion of embodiment 1 of the invention.

[Fig.2]

Fig.2 is an explanatory view of a portion of Fig.1.

[Fig.3]

Fig.3 is an explanatory view of polarized states of light fluxlight esbeams at respective positions of Fig.2.

[Fig.4]

Fig.4 illustrates explanatory views of a light fluxlight beam on an emission face of an optical integrator of Fig.1.

[Fig.5]

Fig.5 is an explanatory view of a light fluxlight beam on the emission face of the optical integrator of Fig.1.

[Fig.6]

Fig.6 is an outline view of an essential portion of embodiment 2 of optical means according to the invention.

[Fig.7]

Fig.7 is an explanatory view of a portion of Fig.6.

[Fig.8]

Fig.8 is an outline view of an essential portion of embodiment 3 of optical means according to the invention.

[Fig.9]

Fig.9 is an outline view of an essential portion of a projection exposure apparatus of a background art.

[Fig.10]

Fig.10 is an explanatory view of a portion of Fig.9.

[Description of Reference numerals and Signs]

1..light source

1a..beam shaping optical system
2, 5a, 5b..adjusting members
3, 6a, 6b..polarization beam splitters
10..optical integrator
12..reticle
13..projection optical system
14..wafer
20..optical means
21..half mirror
22..pin hole
23..light detector

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(54)【発明の名称】 照明装置及びそれを用いた投影露光装置

(57)【要約】
【目的】 バターン形状の方向や線偏光により最適な照明系を選択して高解像力の投影露光が可能な半導体素子の製造に好適な照明装置及びそれを用いた投影露光装置を得ること。
【構成】 光源からの光を光学手段でインコヒーレントな複数の光票に振幅分割し、該複数の光票をオプティカルインテグレートダを介して複数の2枚光源を形成し、該複数の2枚光源からの光票を集光レンズで集束して被照射面上のバターンを照明し、該バターンを投影光学系により基板面上に投影露光する際、該光学手段は複数の光票の各々の相対光量を独立に調整する調整部材を有していること。

いる。

【0011】そこでは照明光（有効光量）を4つの部分に分割し、4個矩状の面状とすることにより高解像度の投影を行なっている。

【0012】図9は本発明者が先に提案した高解像度用の投影露光装置の要部構成図である。

【0013】同図においてはエキシマレーザ101から射出した光束をビーム整形光学系（図示）によりビーム整形した後、光分断手段109で互いにインコヒーレントな複数の光束に分割して射出してオプティカルインテグレート110に入射している。

【0014】オプティカルインテグレート110の入射面110aにおける光強度分布は、例えば図10に示すようにになっている。このとき射出面110bもそれに対応した光強度分布となっている。

【0015】尚、図10では光分断手段109aで入射光束を4つの光束の分割した状態を示している。

【0016】オプティカルインテグレート110からの光束をコンデンサレンズ111で集光し、被照材面であるレチクル112を照射している。そしてレチクル112面上のパターンを投影光学系113によりウエハ114面上に投影している。

【0017】同図ではオプティカルインテグレート110の射出面110bの光強度分布を図10に示すような形状とし、かつコンデンサレンズ111で射出した0bを投影光学系113の瞳に結像させるようにしている。これによりレチクル112の特定のパターンについて高解像度のパターン投影を行なっている。

【0018】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】一般にウエハ面上に転写されるパターン像（解像度）は照明装置の性質、例えば被照材面上の照射光の角度分布（配光特性）に大きく影響される。

【0019】半導体素子の製造用の投影露光装置では高立精度のパターンや各素子の超微細な配線のために被照材面であるレチクル面上の配光特性を均一に維持する必要がある。この為、被照材面上の配光特性の非対称性によりパターン像の解像度が低下してくる場合があるた。

【0020】本発明は本出願人が先に開示した投影露光装置において、照明装置の一部を構成するオプティカルインテグレートの入射面上の複数の光束に基づく面状分布を任意に調整できるようにし、これにより被照材面上の配光特性を任意に調整し、高い解像度のパターン像が容易に得られる半導体素子の製造に好適な照明装置及びそれを用いた投影露光装置の提供を目的とする。

【0021】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の照明装置は、光源からの光束を光学手段でインコヒーレントな複数の光束に分割し、該複数の光束をオプティカルインテグ

レートを紹介して複数の2次元光源を形成し、該複数の2次元光源からの光束を集光レンズにより集光して被照材面を照射する際、該光学手段は複数の光束の各々の相対光量を独立に調整する調整部材を有していることを特徴としている。

【0022】本発明の投影露光装置は、光源からの光束を光学手段によりインコヒーレントな複数の光束に分割し、該複数の光束をオプティカルインテグレートを紹介して複数の2次元光源を形成し、該複数の2次元光源からの光束を集光レンズで集光して被照材面上のパターンを照射し、該パターンを投影光学系により被照材面上に投影露光する際、該光学手段は複数の光束の各々の相対光量を独立に調整する調整部材を有していることを特徴としている。

【0023】この他本発明の投影露光装置では、(イ)前記光学手段は入射光束を所定の配光特性を有する2つの光束に分割する第1個ビームスプリッタと該第1個ビームスプリッタからの2つの光束を更に2つの光束に分割する第2、第3個ビームスプリッタとを有していること、(ロ)前記調整部材は前記第1、第2、第3個ビームスプリッタの前方に配置した回転可能な位相要素より成っていること、(ハ)前記調整部材は前記第1個ビームスプリッタで分割した2つの光束のうち一方の光束の光路中に減光量が一固定又は可変の固定又は可変可能な減光部材を有していること、(ニ)前記減光部材はNDフィルタ又はハーフミラーから成ること、等を特徴としている。

【0024】

【実施例】図1は本発明の実施例1の要部構成図である。

【0025】図中1は光源であり、例えばは準連続化したエキシマレーザ等から成っている。エキシマレーザ1からの光束はプリズム、グレーティング若しくはそれらとエタロン等の組み合わせにより狭帯域化され、非対称な配光特性を有している。

【0026】1aはビーム整形光学系であり、光源1からの光束をビーム整形して射出している。20は光学手段であり、ビーム整形光学系1aからの光束をインコヒーレントな複数の光束に狭帯域分割し、かつ調整部材により複数の光束の各々の相対強度を独立に調整した後に出し、オプティカルインテグレート10の入射面10aに入射している。入射面10aには、例えば図10に示すような複数の光束に基づく複数の光量分布が形成されている。

【0027】オプティカルインテグレート10は複数の微小レンズを2次元的に所定のピッチで配列して構成している。オプティカルインテグレート10の射出面10bには複数の2次元光源が形成されている。

【0028】11はコンデンサレンズであり、オプティカルインテグレート10の射出面10bからの光束を

集光し、ハーフミラー2-2に入射している。ハーフミラー2-2で反射した一部の光束により被照材面であるレチクル12を照射している。

【0029】尚、以上の光源1からレチクル12に至る各要素は照明装置の一要素を構成している。

【0030】13は投影光学系であり、レチクル12面上のパターンをウエハ14面上に縮小投影している。2はハーフミラーであり、ハーフミラー2-1を介してレチクル12と光学的に等価位置に配置している。

【0031】23は光検出部であり、ハーフミラー2-1を透過し、ピンホール22を通過してきた光束を検出し、空間的にレチクル12面の照度をモニターしている。光検出部23は2次元CCDや4分画センサー等から成り、ピンホール22を通過してくる全光量を計測すると共に、後述するようにオプティカルインテグレート10の射出面10bに形成された複数の領域（例えば4つの領域）の有効光量の強度比をモニターしている。オプティカルインテグレート10の射出面10b上の複数の領域の強度比が等しくなるように後述する光学手段20内の調整部材で調整している。

【0032】尚、コンデンサレンズ11はオプティカルインテグレート10の射出面10b近傍に形成した複数の2次元光源をハーフミラー2-1を介して投影光学系13の瞳13aに2次元投影して形成している。

【0033】本実施例では投影光学系13の瞳面13aに形成された2次元光源分布を撮らると変更して前述の範囲3-28613号で撮らしたと同様の照明方法（高解像度照明）を施ることにより高解像度の回路パターンを投影露光を行なっている。

【0034】次に本実施例の光学手段20の構成について説明する。図2は本実施例の光学手段20の実施例1の要部構成図である。

【0035】本実施例ではビーム整形光学系1aからの入射光束をインコヒーレントな4つの光束に狭帯域分割し、射出する場を合している（尚、分割する光束の数は4つに限らずいくつであっても良い）。

【0036】1は光源であり、配光特性の強い光束を射出している。図中、2、5a、5b、8a、8b、8c、8dは各々調整部材としてのλ/2板等の位相板であり、光路中心に面状調整が可能になっている。3、6a、6bは各々第1、第2、第3個ビームスプリッタである。4、7は各々ミラーである。

【0037】図3は図2の各点（A～F、）における光束の配光状態及び強度を図2の各位置（A～F、）に対応させて示している。

【0038】図3に示すAのような配光状態（0°直線偏光）で光線1より射出された光束は調整部材としてのλ/2板2を適当に調整することにより図3のBのような配光状態（45°直線偏光）の光束に変換され、第1個ビームスプリッタ3を通過することにより、図3の

C、C'のようにより互いに直交した偏光状態（0°直線偏光と90°直線偏光）をもつ等強度の2つの光束に分割される。

【0039】これらの光束C、C'は適当に調整された調整部材としてのλ/2板5a、5bにより再び光束D、D'のようにな45°直線偏光に変換される。そして第2、第3個ビームスプリッタ6a、6bを通過することにより光束E、Ea、Eb、Ecのようにな等強度の4つの光束に分割される。

【0040】そして図3（A）に示すようにオプティカルインテグレート10の入射面10aの各所定の位置に指向され、その面10a上に4つの分割光G1～G4を形成し、射出面10b近傍に4つの2次元光源を形成する。

【0041】図2中のλ/2板8a、8b、8c、8dはオプティカルインテグレート10の入射面10aに入射する各光束の偏光方向を任意に変えるためのものであり、その調整によって4つの光束を図3（B）、（C）のように設定することができ、

【0042】図3は図2の光学手段20において、調整部材としてのλ/2板2を光軸に対して回転させ上位位置からずらした場合の各位置での配光状態を示している。このとき、図2の位置Bでの配光状態は図5の光束Bのようにな45°直線偏光から若干ずれ、第1個ビームスプリッタ3を通過した光束の強度比が等しくなくなる。このような原理によりオプティカルインテグレート10の入射面10aに入射する各光束の相対強度比を調整している。

【0043】本実施例においては光源1として直線偏光のレーザを用いたが、例えば円偏光や楕円偏光の光束を放射する光源を用いた場合、位相要素をλ/4板やλ/4板とλ/2板の組合せとすることにより同様の無効果を達成することができ、又レーザ光に若干の無偏光成分が含まれていた場合、光量の調整幅が若干小さくなる程度で支障はない。

【0044】各個ビームスプリッタ3、6a、6bはS偏光透過率1%以下、P偏光反射率1%以上というように消光比が小さいものが望ましいが、実際にはある偏光透過率40%以下、それと直交する偏光が反射率40%以下程度であれば必要な量調整は可能である。

【0045】図5は本発明に係る光学手段の実施例2の要部構成図である。

【0046】同図は図3の第1個ビームスプリッタ3により分割された2つの光束の光路中に切替可能なNDフィルタ板31、32を設けたものである。NDフィルタ板31、32は図3に示したようなものであり、例えば光束を100%透過させるNDフィルタ31aと様々な透過率をもつ複数のNDフィルタ31a～31hを基板上にターンレット式に敷けて構成してい

る。
【0047】NDフィルター31aを透過率100%、NDフィルター31bを透過率95%というように光路中に所望のNDフィルターを挿入することにより、第1偏光ビームスプリッター3により分割された2つの光の光量を調整している。
【0048】本実施例の場合、光源1からの光線が全く無偏光の場合においても有効である。又、NDフィルターを第2、第3ビームスプリッター6a、6bにより分割された4光束の光路中に配置し、面積4光束の光量を調整してもよい。
【0049】図8は本発明に係る光学手段の実施例3の要部断面図である。

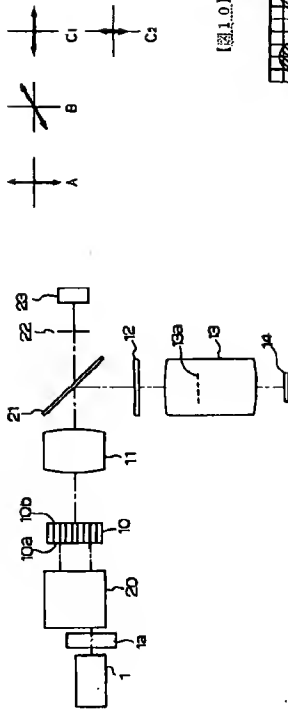
【0050】本実施例は光源1が全く無偏光、もしくは極めて偏光度の小さい光を放射する場合である。
【0051】図中、41は消光比の小さい第1偏光ビームスプリッターであり、光源1からの光線が第1偏光ビームスプリッター41を通過することにより、ほぼ完全に2つの直交した直交偏光の光に分けられる。42a、42b、42cは各々固定された入/4板であり、第1偏光ビームスプリッターを通過して来た直線偏光光円偏光光に変換するように設定されている。42d、42eは設定可能な調整部材としての入/4板であり、第2、第3ビームスプリッター6a、6bによる光の分配比（光量b₁：光量b₂及び光量b₁：光量b₂）を調整するものである。

【0052】43、44は反射率を定めることのできる複数のハーフミラーを有するハーフミラー部材であり、図3のNDフィルター板と同じような構成を有する。

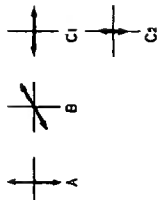
【0053】今、ハーフミラー部材43、44の調整時のとき（ハーフミラー部材43、44内の光軸上のハーフミラーの透過率が共に100%のとき）、光量b₁：光量b₂の光量が100、光量b₁：光量b₂の光量が80のときに双方の光量を等しくしたいとする。このときハーフミラー部材43を透過率90%、反射率10%のハーフミラーに切り替えると両者の光量が等しくなる。
【0054】以下、このときの原理を説明する。偏光ビームスプリッター41は分割面に対してP偏光光を透過、S偏光光を反射するものとする。光源1からの光線は偏光ビームスプリッター41を通過することにより90%の透過光（P偏光光）と10%の反射光（S偏光光）に分割される。90%の透過光（P偏光光）は入/4板42bを通過することにより円偏光光に変換される。

【0055】この光のうちハーフミラー43によって反射された10%の光線は、再び入/4板42bを通過しS偏光光に変換される。この光は偏光ビームスプリッター41により反射され、入/4板42aを介してミラー44により反射され、再び偏光ビームスプリッター41

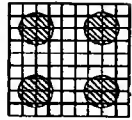
【図1】



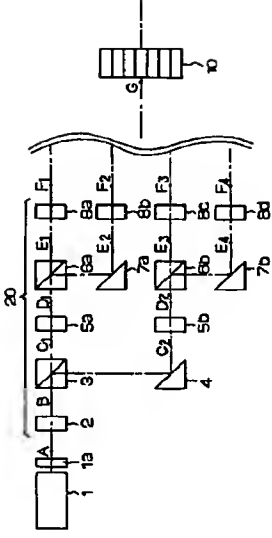
【図5】



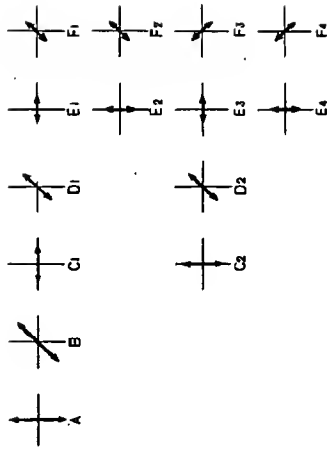
【図1.0】



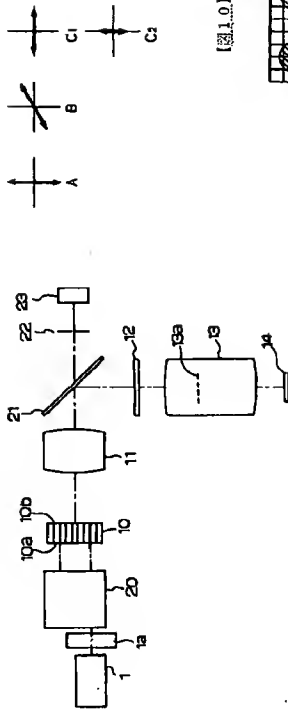
【図2】



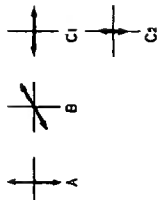
【図3】



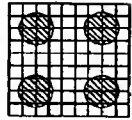
【図1】



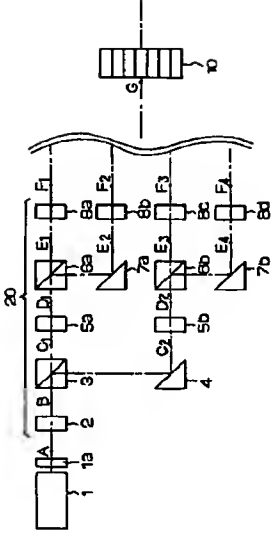
【図5】



【図1.0】



【図2】



【図3】

